ORIGIN/ACTION

M/R	REP	AF
1		
RA	EUR	FE
EA	CU	INR
E	P	IO
L 7	FBO	AID
IS 15	SIP 1	
GR	COM	FRB
NT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR 5
RMY 3	CIA 20	NAVY 5
SD 33	USIA	NSA 3
SC 6	WH-4 3	

EA-8

18

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

POL 14 VIETS

FOR RM USE ONLY

A-41 NO.

CONFIDENTIAL HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : CINCPAC FOR POLAD

Action assigned to EA/VN

Action Taken 1/2 7E

JUL 31 8 35 AM '67

Date of Action

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON

DATE: July 19 , 1967

Action Office Symbol EA/VN

SUBJECT : Vietnamese Armed Forces Directive on Elections

Name of Officer RM

REF :

The RVNAF Joint General Staff issued a directive on election propaganda July 1. The major effect of the directive is to prohibit servicemen on active duty from taking part in election campaigning or propaganda. Exception is provided for the serviceman who takes leave of absence without pay for two months prior to the election in order to be a candidate's representative. Presumably because this directive was issued after the election filing deadline, it made no mention of servicemen who might want to be candidates, although the same leave without pay requirement applies.

Comment: In spite of well-intentioned directives such as this one, individuals or elements of the government and armed forces will, of course, be in positions of potential influence on the outcome of the elections.

BUNKER

Enclosure:

RVNAF JGS Directive on Elections (CONFIDENTIAL)

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals;
declassified after 12 years.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY ... DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. ... REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

FOR DEPT USE ONLY

1967 JUL 31 PM 2 13

COPYFLO-PBR

CONFIDENTIAL

FORM DS-323 4-62

Drafted by: POL:JDNegroponte/DCFerguson:paz:ju:7/25/67

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:JACalhoun

Clearances: POL:TMRecknagel POL:TJCHeavner

0914557.30

DECLASSIFIED

1 July 67

MEMORANDUM

Republic of Viet Nam
Dept of Defense
Joint General Staff/RVNAF
Phone: 30975
No. 0420/TTM/1/NV/CLQ

SUBJECT: Election Propaganda By Servicemen

REFERENCES:
1. Law No. 001/67 dated 15 Jun 67 (Presidential and Vice Presidential Election).
2. Law No. 002/67 dated 15 Jun 67 (Senatorial Election).
3. Notice No. 91-TT/HP/PC dated 17 Jun 67 (transferred by No. 013235/TTM/TQT/HSP dated 24 Jun 67).
4. Decree No. 13-CT/LDQGQL/SL dated 20 Oct 64 outlining regulations for servicemen on active duty.
5. Directive No. 1487/TTM/1/NV/CLQ dated 18 Jun 67

Recently, JGS has learned that some servicemen have engaged in political propaganda within their units on behalf of this or that Presidential, Vice-Presidential, or Senatorial slate. These acts are not in accordance with military regulations, military procedures, notice regarding elections of the Central Executive Committee, and measures decided by electoral laws. In order to stop these harmful acts, this Memorandum is being issued by JGS to notify all unit commanders and agency chiefs that they have to explain clearly to their subordinate servicemen all the rules of the electoral campaign, the prohibitions set forth by these rules and the military regulations. Disciplinary action must be taken against those who violate these regulations, in order to preserve the fairness and honesty of the Armed Forces in the construction of democracy.

1. Servicemen's regulations:

Article 85: Reference Decree (4) defined: "on the public freedom as well as individual freedom, freedom of religion, free thought, freedom of speech, free meeting and freedom of profession, the serviceman, because of his special position, cannot exercise fully all of the above freedoms.

Article 90: "Servicemen cannot participate in groups demanding political rights. The formation of political groups in the Armed Forces is strictly prohibited."

Article 91: "Servicemen are authorized only to participate in meetings and discussions concerning sports and must have the permission of the Unit Commander. All other meetings, demonstrations, political discussion are prohibited within the public service."

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

In accordance with the rules, servicemen do not have complete freedom to exercise their individual liberties; political discussions and meetings are prohibited so that impartiality within the Armed Forces is guaranteed.

2. Laws and notices for election:

a. Articles 13 and 18 of the reference laws (1), and articles 14 and 20 of the reference (2), state that when filing candidacy candidates must also submit the names of representatives to be assigned to the Central Election Campaign Committee. This Committee will include 1 representative and 1 alternate from each ticket.

b. Article 20 (law #001/67) and Article 23 (law #002/67) state that it is only the election campaign committee which can:

"Organize talks between the electors and candidates or their representative...

No candidate can use campaign means outside the number and modes fixed by this Article."

Reference notice (3) states that... because of this important election, and to secure the impartiality and thepurity of the government, servicemen can only participate in campaign activities if there has been a request by the Central Campaign Committee. A request by an individual candidate or his representative is not sufficient. The notice also states that"...all military servicemen, civil servants, as well as cadres, who agree to be representatives for candidates must request leave of absence without pay 2 months prior to the date of election..."

The procedure for requesting leave of absence without pay in order to be the representative of a candidate will be applied in accordance with reference directive (5). The serviceman must be able to prove that he is on the list of representatives for a candidate.

Thus military personnel on active duty cannot be a candidate's representative.

c. In addition Article 23 (Law #001/67) and Article 26 (law #002/67) designate the period for the election campaign as follows:

"...The election campaign will start on 3 August 67 and end at 12:00 noon September 2, 1967..."

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

3. The attitude of military servicemen in the election:

In order to implement the above-mentioned decisions, JGS affirms that servicemen of all ranks cannot engage in campaign or propaganda activities on behalf of any candidate.

When there is a request from the Central Election Campaign Committee, commanders of installations or unit commanders will base their decision on available strength and the security situation as to whether or not to give permission to servicemen to listen to the candidates or their representatives explain their position.

In addition, during the time of the election campaign, all election meetings must be organized in an impartial and objective manner so as to help the servicemen understand voting procedures. Study sessions must also be impartial and objective, and organized in such a way as not to be for the benefit of any individual slate.

4. All violations with respect to the election campaign, particularly political propaganda, harassment and misrepresentation, will receive maximum military discipline including demotion as prescribed in Decree 020/67 of June 9, 1967.

5. Special article.

The installation or unit commanders will study and disseminate this memorandum in order that all servicemen fully understand and implement it.

For GEN CAO VAN VIEN
Chief of JGS/RVNAF
MG Nguyen Van Vy
Chief of Joint Staff
(Signed & Sealed)

DECLASSIFIED